

# The Connecticut Libertarian

February 2002

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

## Childhood: The Latest Disease

by Ned Vare

Our local school board has just extended its policy of administering drugs to students. How many of Connecticut's schoolchildren are being drugged for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)? Who benefits from the drugging? What benefits are claimed? Before you drug your child, take the drug yourself for a few months, and ask the doctor and all the school employees to do the same. Check to see the effects. Then decide.

Until about 1950, doctors and psychologists were concerned about the "problem" of masturbation. In those days, they declared masturbation a disease and even believed it was the cause of other diseases. "Cures" were devised, from herbal concoctions to hypnosis to physical constraints. In their folly, those professionals seemed to suspend their oath of "Do no harm" for the urgent purpose of stamping out masturbation. Nowadays, masturbation is known by those same professions to be normal, healthy and beneficial – a fact that has caused the medical and psychological fields to admit their incredible former ignorance and the harm they caused to many.

Today, it's ADD that the same professionals claim is a "disease," even though there is no medical proof of its existence nor evidence that mind-disabling drugs like Ritalin "cure" it. The drugging is an indication of how far the schools will go in order to control and/or threaten bored and unhappy children and their families; also that the schools and the medical and psychological professions have been corrupted by yet another monster of their own creation.

It's bad enough that attending public school is an irrelevant and tedious experience, but to blame children when they find it intolerable, and to claim not to know why some of them resort to violence to make their anguish known, is to repeat the bloodletting and witch-hunting of past centuries.

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## Call For Heros – A Special Chairman's Corner

By Lenny Rasch

Recently I was talking with a friend about September 11th, and the many heroes of that day. He made the point that most people have the capability to be a hero. A hero, he said, is someone who sees that there is something important that needs to be done. He also realizes that there is no one else around who is going to do it – it will only be done if he takes action. He acts – and becomes a hero!

The most dramatic acts of heroism are usually associated with risk of physical harm. But we also recognize many other heroic moments in life. These situations usually involve people stepping forward to assume tough tasks or commitments that there is no one else around to do. Movies and books are full of stories of individuals who made the efforts that changed peoples live for the better, and we all admire these individuals.

I think that many Libertarian Party members believe that there is some kind of full-time staff that keeps the LP in Connecticut going. Each year a lot of things get done, ballot drives are successful, candidates run for office, conventions are organized, and occasionally other events take place as well.

The fact is, everything is accomplished by volunteers in the

Libertarian Party of Connecticut. Every meeting, every event, every publication, every petition drive, every activity of the LPCT is the result of volunteer work and volunteer donations. A very small number of people are trying to turn a very big wheel to make things happen.

It's what you don't see that you have to think about. A lot of things that should be done never happen. There are a lot of great ideas, and they all require some amount of volunteer effort and sometimes money as well. Because you don't see them, you probably don't realize that they are not getting done.

You, too, can be a hero. There are jobs that need to be done. These are tasks that will help promote liberty and the ideas that you believe in. These are tasks that can eventually change the world that you live in. They are tasks that are not getting done, but are desperately needed.

Look around. There's nobody else that can do it – it's up to you. I'm inviting you to become a hero – an Libertarian Party hero – and take up a task, a party function, a job that's not being done. Become an active Libertarian Party member – make things happen.

Become an Libertarian Party hero – it's up to you.

## Ballot Access 2002 – the Bottom Line

by Dawn Barry

The state wide election will be held in November, 2002. In order to run Libertarian candidates for the 6 offices up for reelection (Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney General, and Secretary of State), we must turn in 7,500 valid signatures. Our goal is to run a full slate of strong candidates and then receive at least 1% of the vote cast for each office, thereby locking in ballot access for the 2006 elections.

We need your help! First, if you

are at all willing to run for one of these offices, please contact Lenny Rasch at l.rasch@snet.net, as soon as possible. There are at least 3 members, so far, who have expressed a willingness to run and there are many others who will be helping with the campaigns.

Next step will be to start gathering signatures. The more volunteers we have, the less money we will have to spend on this task. Paying a petitioner will cost

*See Ballot Access, page 2*

## Bill Colonna to Speak at State Central Committee

William Colonna will address the State Central Committee at its regular business meeting on February 19th in Wethersfield, at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Colonna is a retiree who helped form the new Veterans Party (which advocates abolition of state taxes) and is currently their candidate for governor. Under consideration is a proposal to have Mr. Colonna run for governor as the Libertarian Party candidate (solely).

Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meetings are open to all LP members. If you are interested in meeting the potential gubernatorial candidate, please plan on attending this meeting. Directions to the State Central Committee meeting are printed below.

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## January Strategy Session Report

The January session provided another exciting opportunity for Libertarian Party activists to plan the 2002 races. Once again a lot of good ideas came up, and there was a lively discussion on recruiting a candidate for governor.

Among the actions suggested was the potential of making presentations to organizations that are focused on specific issues where the LP position is a perfect fit. This approach is part of the "Freedom Store" concept of offering a liberty-based solution to a burning contemporary issue.

Among other topics discussed was candidate qualification, opportunities for publicity like Patriots Day, and the value of an aggressive fair booth program. Thanks goes to Ken Gordon for hosting the meeting in Stamford.

### Dinner for the Activists

After the meeting most of the participants adjourned to the Temple Bar in Stamford. A fine meal and good brew was enjoyed by all, and lively conversation continued to the end. The next dinner will follow the March Strategy Session, the location to be announced. Watch the web site and this newsletter for further information.

## Childhood

*Continued from page 1*

Childhood is not a disease, but confining and restraining children, forcing them to pay constant attention to under-educated adults teaching mostly unwanted nonsense, and then drugging them when they resist, seems both insane and criminal. And yet, this response to children is consistent with the rest of the schooling methods and policies: Harmful, cruel, unconscionable, arrogant, and more. It reveals the total lack of imagination within the system, not even enough of it to realize that most, if not all children need simply to go out and play. Stop the harm – let the children be.

## Ballot Access

*Continued from page 1*

approximately \$1 - \$1.50 per raw signature. We have to collect well over the 7,500 signatures since not all of them will be properly registered voters. This could run into a major outlay of cash – up to \$12,000! This money could be much better spent on campaigning.

We will also be running Operation Politically Homeless booths at a number of fairs this summer, to gather signatures and new members. If you are willing and able to help save the Libertarian party some serious money, please volunteer to assist with this necessary task. Contact me at [barryfam6@juno.com](mailto:barryfam6@juno.com).

## February Strategy Session

**Saturday, February 9th – 9 a.m. to Noon**

This is a special opportunity for members to become familiar with the national Libertarian Party Strategic Plan, as LP representatives who worked on that plan will be presenting the basics. This is a chance for you to become familiar with the whole program. The meeting will be held at the home of Ned Vare.

**Directions:** Get to the intersection of I95 (exit 58) and route 77 ( running south from Middlefield) on your own. You are now in Guilford. Take 77 South about one mile to the green in Guilford. Turn right, go half a block, turn left on Whitfield Street. Go South about 300 yards to the end of the green, turn Right on Water St. Go one mile to Wildrose Avenue on right, turn up the hill, go 300 feet. Take Chasse Drive on left. Go 30 feet (really) to Ned's driveway on left. Mailbox says 22 Wildrose.

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- If you have LP-related news or an LP experience to relate in writing, please send it to [tcl@lpct.org](mailto:tcl@lpct.org).
  - The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has been a very effective organization in ballot drives, vote totals, publicity, and promotion of the LP agenda in general. Most recently, they gathered enough signatures to force a state income tax referendum (there are still other legal hurdles to cross). Their upcoming convention promises to be a very worthwhile event. It will be held on April 6, 2002, in Woburn, MA. Check [www.lpma.org](http://www.lpma.org) for details.
  - Much of the information of interest to Connecticut Libertarians is passed through the LP-activist list. The volume is light, so you will not be buried with e-mail when you signup. Please go to the [www.lpct.org](http://www.lpct.org) site and then subscribe to the LP-Activists e-mail list.
  - Gubernatorial Candidate and others – if you are interested in running for a statewide office, please contact [l.rasch@snet.net](mailto:l.rasch@snet.net). We currently have no selection for the top office (Governor) and will discuss this with interested LP members. A decision, however, should be made soon, so if you are interested, act now.

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**Meeting Notice:** The State Central Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19th, at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) in Wethersfield. All members welcome. Agenda:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Chairman's Report
- Current Business
- New Business

**Directions:** From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South). From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South). From East, I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South). From West, I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South). *Route 5 & 15 South:* Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.